

VIDEO SYNOPSIS: Nadine Big Bear

Introduction by Riki Saltzman

- :20 Riki Saltzman introduces herself as Folk Life Coordinator for the Iowa Arts Council Department of Cultural Affairs, part of state government. Ms. Saltzman and her staff work with individuals and communities to document, preserve, and present their traditions.
- :45 She describes presenting crafts, music, and dance as some of the traditions, at folk life festivals, on radio shows, and on two on-line folk life curricula.
- 1:04 Each of the five folk artists is briefly shown as Ms. Saltzman describes their craft or art.

Nadine Big Bear

The video shows Native American dancers in a gathering, with costumes and music.

- 2:02 The narrator introduces Nadine Big Bear, who is Meskwaki. She lives on the Meskwaki settlement in Iowa. She is shown holding a beaded medallion that will be worn around the neck.
- 2:10 Ms. Big Bear says she mostly makes starburst patterns, and if someone requests a motif like a bear claw or eagle feather, she does her best to create it.
- 2:30 She shows how many beads she can put on the needle at a time, depending on how far out on the medallion the beads are being sewn.
- 2:50 The festival is shown again with close-ups of beadwork items being worn by a child and by others. A beaded headband with a medallion in the center is shown. A girl walks by with a beaded costume on, and several more boys are shown with beaded costumes.
- 3:18 A plate holding colored beads sits in front of Ms. Big Bear. She displays armbands, necklaces, and headbands. Several items are made from the same design.
- 3:39 The festival is shown again, and the camera captures several beaded items worn by the participants. Then Ms. Big Bear holds up a necklace and describes the parts. The noise-making parts used to be made with animal bone, but she uses manufactured parts now. The medallion is backed by deer hide. She can order real shells to use in the work. She manipulates the necklace to show how they are made to make noise.
- 4:30 The dancers are shown, then Nadine Big Bear describes how seeds were used in the past, not beads, to create the garments and decorations.
- 4:54 An antique photograph of a Native American wearing ornaments is shown. Ms. Big Bear says that seeds of different colors were used. Animal bones were used in the creation of the ornaments.
- 5:16 She shows a photograph of her father and uncles, and points out that her grandmother made the garments shown in the picture.
- 5:27 The interviewer asks about the making of the medallions. She replies it takes a couple days to make a medallion and she made about fifty or sixty over a winter season.
- 5:46 Ms. Big Bear states, "You are a creator. You are creating this outfit. Somebody is going to wear it when they're dancing...You have a special feeling when you create something like this." Dancers and musicians are shown.
- 6:30 End of Nadine Big Bear section